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5251 March 14, 11:18 a.m.

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2781, March 14, 1 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 2781, ROME 229, BELGRADE 93.

Press dispatches, dateline Belgrade, for past few days have been hinting at trouble in Albania.

Italian Ambassador, Alessandrini, called on me this morning expressing his concern. States his Military Attache informs him considerable numbers Yugoslav troops have moved close to Albanian border. I informed Italian Ambassador I had no (rpt no) information on such movements, although I had noticed several Reuters dispatches on subject of unrest in Albania. Alessandrini informed me he had reported his information re troop movements to Greek Foreign Minister.

When I saw Foreign Minister yesterday on another matter, he did not (rpt not) refer to subject above. I doubt whether Greeks are as perturbed over situation, but at next opportunity will ask Foreign Minister whether he has any information on this subject.

I believe, however, this could be explosive situation and hope Department will give consideration to Albania's problem. In absence of instructions to contrary I shall, of course, inform Greeks my government wishes to see status quo in Albania maintained.

PEURIFOY

SW. NLH/3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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